

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

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TRANSCRIPT OF PRESS, RADIO AND TELEVISION NEWS BRIEFING
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(ON THE RECORD UNLESS OTHERWISE INDICATED)

MR. BRAY: You have a press release, a statement issued by the Secretary of State covering a summary of international narcotics control efforts in 1971.

We have with us today to discuss this subject ON THE RECORD Nelson Gross, Senior Coordinator for International Narcotics Affairs. I think Mr. Gross would like to make a few opening comments, and then he would be happy to take your questions.

MR. GROSS: I think you have in your hand a compilation of recent developments in the narcotics control field. But I would like to report to you that there was a Cabinet Committee meeting -- Cabinet Committee on International Narcotics Control -- on December 16, which was the second meeting. There had been three ad hoc committee meetings. And at that time, they reaffirmed the high priority which we give to enforcement. There will be a recommendation for another substantial budget increase. And they set in motion the procedure for the approval of action plans

which we are going to have for all of those countries involved,

either as producers or as transit or victim countries.

The Chiefs of Mission, I might say, have also been mobilized, again, by Secretary Rogers, who has sent a series of messages to them. I myself attended a Chief of Mission meeting in Paris of the European area. And they are all geared up.

The procedure for approval of narcotics control action plans will be through regional task forces, inter-agency task forces, here at the State Department.

I would just like to say that I think that this year has been one of major accomplishment, as witness certain seizures. I think that for at least this time -- I don't say the first time -- we can cite figures which I think clarify the fact that we have a meaningful result now in international narcotics control. And I am only going to mention three of them to you.

In Laos, on November 5, there was a Government seizure of 730 gallons of acetic anhydride, which is the chemical ingredient necessary to make heroin. That quantity is sufficient to make three tons of heroin. And all of that gallonage, and as a result all of that heroin, is off the market -- three tons worth.

has stepped up their campaign. To give you the figures this year compared against last year: in Hong Kong they seized this year 12,200 pounds of opium as against 99 pounds in 1970. And on December 4 alone there was one seizure resulting from the liaison of our own enforcement effort overseas and the Hong Kong officials -- one seizure of 420 pounds of morphine, and 2,790 pounds of opium.

Third -- and the last one --- the seizures resulting in 1971, or this last year in Europe or directly as a result of European activity, principally the regional office that we have in Paris, totals as follows: 1,324 kilos of morphine base, and 699.5 kilos of heroin, for a total of 2,023.5 kilos of heroin, or opium derivatives. So that we are talking about from the European effort alone two tons of heroin, which is the equivalent of twenty tons of opium. This is a ten-to-one ratio.

I could give you monetary figures, and I saw in some papers this morning that there is a translation of money amounts to these figures. This is not easy to do because it depends on the quality of the heroin in the area.

The most conservative figure for a ton of heroin has been \$225 million at retail. That is based on 6 percent quality heroin. It goes as high as, for one ton, \$850 million

at 5 percent heroin, and in some areas it is even cut to a lesser extent now, based on 100 milligram doses at six dollars per dose. There are so many variables involved that it is hard to pinpoint a figure. But if you take a mean, which I have just done myself here -- if you take a mean of \$500 million for one ton of heroin, we have seized internationally at least indirectly, and many times directly, as a result of our new initiatives, as a result of the initiatives taken in the State Department and by President Nixon, some six tons of heroin, or the equivalent -- and this at a retail value of \$500 million obviously would be \$3 billion worth of heroin.

Now, to make it clear, some of that heroin, for example the Laotian heroin, might have been sold in Viet-Nam at a lower price. This is why I take a mean figure, just to give you some idea of what the quantities are that we are talking about.

But in conclusion of these few remarks, I would like to say that we have had this year as a result of this very increased escalation of effort, a meaningful impact which can now be demonstrated in the field. There is no question but that the supply has been cut down, at least to the extent that I indicated. Pressure is on the routes.

And I have got charts up here which indicate the routes.

On my right: this demonstrates the route of morphine base, from Turkey through Bulgaria or Greece, and then Yugoslavia and across Europe into France. This does not show the route of the heroin after it leaves France or any other area.

On this map we have a generalized map, the black outline representing the opium producing areas, and the red indicating the route of the heroin as it moves down into Southeast Asia, and then across to Hong Kong, either directly or from Bangkok or Saigon.

Those are the general routes.

We are trying, and I think we have developed pressure points whereby we can cut back now on the supply.

There is much more to be done. Anybody who said otherwise would be kidding. But we are now geared up as a result of the President's directive, as a result of Secretary Rogers' issuing instructions as Chairman of the Cabinet Committee. And I think that we are on the way to do even more next year.

Q What is being done with respect to the agreement with Turkey?

A Well, the agreement with Turkey is being

implemented.

Q How effective is it? What is the situation?

A Well, it has been very effective to this date.

The Turkish Government passed a licensing law in August. By virtue of that, all producers must necessarily have licenses this year. They collected in the 1971 crop 149 tons of opium as against only 60, I believe, the previous year, 1970. So that the licensing requirement has definitely increased what the Government is legally going to collect, which means much less for the illicit market.

Q Is Turkey still the chief source of illicit drugs?

A To this country, yes.

Q The Republican task force in the House says their preliminary inquiries have shown that Latin America is now becoming a major avenue for transmission. Do you have any assessment of how much of an impact there really is coming in through Latin America and the Canal Zone?

A Well, that hasn't been too recent. After the heroin leaves Europe, it goes directly either to Canada or South America and then either up from South America, Mexico, or down from Canada. And this has been the route for quite a considerable period of time.

It used to be that the couriers from South America were taken up to Europe and they would courier the material directly over to the United States or into Canada and Mexico and then into the United States. But now much of the material is being sent first to South America and then up.

Q Mr. Gross, a couple of questions. First, on this addendum sheet, there is a footnote which says one kilogram of morphine base converts to one kilogram of heroin. That's wrong, I gather.

A No, that's right.

Q I thought you said ten.

A Ten-to-one opium to morphine base/heroin.

Q I see. Do you have any evidence pro or con that any of the opium comes from China?

A We have no evidence that any opium is coming from China at all. In fact, we have even had reports that some has moved up from Burma across the border into China. I might say here that the Chinese and our own Government have had virtually an identity of interest and an identity of policy for a century. We have consistently been with the Chinese Government over the years in trying to eradicate not only production, but obviously trafficking and use of opium and derivatives.

Q How would you know if it were coming from China or not?

A Well, our intelligence sources indicate that it is coming from these areas (indicating map). There is more than enough supply in those areas to account for all of the material which comes either into Southeast Asia, into victim areas, South Viet-Nam or the United States. We have no reports, and we could tell from those who might be arrested as to where they were acquiring the material. We have no report of any coming from China.

Q To what do you ascribe France's initial reticence to cooperate on this issue and are you now getting the degree of cooperation which is satisfactory to this Government?

A Well, I don't think there was an initial reticence. I would phrase it a different way. I think that it has required some effort to mobilize other countries, including France and many others. The President has done this and Secretary Rogers has continuously by upgrading narcotics control to a foreign policy level. The French have moved much, much faster than many other countries have, as a matter of fact. The seizures which I pointed out in

are making. I don't see a reticence. In fact, I think I see an increased cooperation.

Another example would be Pompidou's initiative with the EC community, which is moving ahead continually. The Ministers from the EC community are meeting on a weekly and monthly basis now, and developing a program for enforcement in the European area.

Q Why haven't they gotten any of the laboratories in Marseille, if they are doing so much?

A Well, I wish they could get laboratories. They haven't gotten one since 1969. We have, as you know, our own BNDD officials in the Marseille area. We have had them there for some length of time. And we have our own ability to advise the French as to when and where we think there might be a suspicious location.

Frankly, they are just not easy to find. They are extremely difficult to find. But I am confident that the French want to find a laboratory as much as we do.

Q Mr. Gross, in spite of these record seizures, isn't it true that we are getting only a tiny percentage of the amount of drugs that are moving illicitly throughout the world?

A Well, up to this year I would have said a

tiny percentage would be accurate. But I think now -- we are talking just in the three items which I cited, we are talking about six tons. There is some overlap in the United States Customs reports which are out now. But eliminating that overlap, we are talking about six tons of heroin or the equivalent. That is no longer insignificant. If you take a street value, we are up into the billions of dollars.

Q Why is there no drop-off in the supply of drugs in this country?

A Well, I am not sure that there is not a drop-off in the supply. In fact, I think there is. I think if you were to check out given areas as to the quality of heroin in the drugs, in the narcotics, which are being put out, you will find the quality has dropped off. It used to be ten percent, then it came down to six. I think it is down to three percent in some areas or even less.

Q You say it is no longer a small percentage. You say you have six tons. What kind of percentage is this in the overall market of illicit drugs?

A It is very difficult to estimate. I have seen estimates as high as six tons being used for one calendar year in the United States -- anywhere from four

to six tons.

Q So then it is still a small percentage of the drugs available.

A Oh, no. If we have seized six tons, we have put, I would think, a very severe deterrent into the market. We have cut the supply drastically. They have to supply twice as much in order to get in the same amount.

We have seized the equivalent of a year's supply in this one year.

Q According to this map, the Turkish opium, or whatever it is, goes through the Balkans and Central Europe. Why not the Mediterranean route?

A There is still the sea route being used, and these small arrows would indicate that. But the evidence seems to indicate that the overland route is now the one of preference. I can't tell you why.

Q Do you have the cooperation of the communist countries there in that area? Stopping it or preventing it?

A I visited Belgrade myself only a few weeks ago as a result of President Tito's visit here. Secretary Rogers brought the subject up with the Foreign Minister, and I attended that and followed up that particular meeting. And I am certain that the Government of Yugoslavia wants us to

help. In fact, we are going to send over BNDD officials for training purposes. Miles Ambrose, our Customs Commissioner, has met again for the second time at least, and this was only a week or so ago, with the customs officials in Yugoslavia, and they want to cooperate to the fullest.

Q How about Bulgaria?

A On Bulgaria -- also. This is one area where we have had affirmatively an indication from the Bulgarian Government that they do want to cooperate. In fact, one of the seizures cited was a rather large one -- I don't have it in front of me, but I think it is over 300 kilos. And the customs officials of Bulgaria, I assume as approved by the Government, also want to cooperate in this field.

Q Has there been any kind of concrete cooperation with either the Soviet Union or China with regard to this effort?

A Well, we are beginning discussions with the Soviet Union specifically relating to the proposed amendments to the 1961 Single Convention. The conference to consider those amendments will occur in March of this year. And we have had preliminary discussions with them to interest them in trying to strengthen the International Narcotics Control Board.

Q Have you been successful? Have they shown an interest?

A Well, it is premature to say. We have just exchanged ideas and we will be exchanging working papers. And we would be hopeful for their support.

Q Is there any contact with China on this?

A Not yet.

Q Mr. Gross, in the report which is distributed today, there is a paragraph which talks about the Bureau of Customs equipping aircraft with sophisticated sensor devices to help in the search for smuggled narcotics. Could you describe a little bit more completely how these aircraft with sensor devices are going to operate?

A I really should have Miles Ambrose for that one. That gets a little too technical for me. But I know that we are sending Customs men -- and this is part of the inter-agency effort, as approved here through the State Department -- as well as equipment to Southeast Asia and other areas. I think that the air surveillance equipment will probably be used at the Mexican border. But I can't tell you how that will operate specifically.

Q Mr. Gross, may we assume that none of the approved for release 2001/09/04 : CIA-RDP80-01601R001000040005-5

the Near East countries en route to the United States or elsewhere?

A Passes through the Near East countries?

Q Yes.

A Well, no. Some will come down through Syria and Lebanon, and then by sea. But from the reports we have, this is a route that is less favored now than it formerly was. The preferred route appears to be the overland route.

Q Mr. Gross, if I have understood you correctly, you said that you have seized the equivalent of a year's supply in 1971. Is it fair, then, to infer from that that the sources are producing a larger supply now than they were a few years ago in reaction to this?

A Well, not necessarily so, but more supply might be directed to the United States than before. You have very large supplies in Southeast Asia which we are trying of course to interdict. And at the same time, we are trying to block those routes before they are established, while we eliminate completely this route from Turkey.

Q While you are on Southeast Asia, what is the situation with regard to Burma, which I gather is one of the main sources, where the government has no control over the growing areas? Do you have any prospects for cutting

off that traffic?

A Well, we have had some preliminary discussions with Burmese officials. We have some thoughts about it. But as you mention, it is extremely difficult, because the Government has no control over the producing areas. This is one reason why the Cabinet Committee on December 16 determined to increase its enforcement effort and to give it the greatest priority. So that, for example, in Thailand, as a part of our Memorandum of Understanding with Thailand, we will be implementing special units for enforcement in this north Thailand area above Ching Mai, in order to block the material once it passes, if it does, the border between Burma and Thailand.

Also, I should point out again that in Laos, we have made very, very significant strides, because not only has the government of Laos banned opium production and trafficking in the derivatives, but they also have banned use of acetic anhydride, which led to the seizure I mentioned. So that to close off this particular Vientiane transit point is going to do a great deal to cut back on the illicit traffic.

Q Mr. Gross, I think when you were talking before about the amount for a year's supply for the U.S., you said that were

some of the others?

A That is the maximum. I have seen anywhere from four-to-six tons as the amount needed to supply the United States for a year.

Q If we could get these figures completely straight -- you are dealing with four to six tons U.S. alone. Is there any figure for total world consumption per annum?

A No.

Q I can see where it would be difficult to get one.

A Very, very difficult. Although -- I would just like to read one or two lines. This is from -- an extract from a speech by Lord Windelsham, Minister of State in the Home Office in London, on November 25 -- to show you the impact that President Nixon and Secretary of State Rogers have had. This is the closing paragraph in his speech. He says: "This is no private drama for overseas spectators. It is a problem for the whole world community. As your spokesmen" -- and he is talking to Americans -- "as your spokesmen have vigorously been urging in every interested forum, it is not too much to say that recent American initiatives in the international drug scene have largely transformed the perspectives for international cooperation,

and the story has not yet ended."

What I would say, then, is that other countries are beginning now to realize and to recognize the problems that they face. We are beginning to work together. We couldn't have obtained these seizures if that had not been the fact.

Q To continue with that, however, to what extent are countries such as France, England, Germany and other areas in Western Europe simply on the route, to what extent are they actually consumers of drugs?

A Well, the consumption unfortunately in France and in Germany and all countries has increased -- not as dramatically as in the United States. But if you look back at the United States five years ago, you see the beginnings of what could happen. And this is why, one reason why, they have begun to mobilize. There is, of course, in Europe a great use of hashish. There is even use of morphine base. And the awareness factor has increased immeasurably.

Q Mr. Gross, could you discuss the relationship between the price of heroin and other drugs and the seizures -- that is to say, the more heroin that is seized the higher the price on the street, is that correct?

A No.

Q And also what happens to the seized drugs?

A No, I don't think that the more that is seized, the higher the price necessarily. What has happened here is that the quality has gone down. The price seems to be the same -- five dollars a dose, a packet, whatever it is called.

Q Over the past year.

A Right. But the quality has gone down from originally, say, ten percent to then six and now three, and in some areas we have reports it is even two percent heroin for the same price.

Q Mr. Gross, what does the three billion dollars compare with for the previous year?

A Well, the previous year -- just one example, in Hong Kong, as I mentioned, they seized 12,200 pounds of opium in '71 as against 99 pounds in '70.

Q Do you have a figure which could show how much of an increase --

A I don't have an overall.

Q I notice you used different time periods in this report -- sometimes calendar year, sometimes fiscal. When is the date at which the Administration's anti-narcotics drive could be said to have started?

A I think it started when the Administration

took office. That period was the time that the President began to form his first Ad Hoc Committee on Opium Control. And it has been gradually beefed up in a more accelerated fashion ever since.

Q Can you tell us approximately when the overland route became favored from Turkey through Europe?

A Probably since the war in the Mid-East.

Q Since 1967 -- since that war?

A This seems to be the time period when -- this is a gradual thing. I couldn't give you figures and no one could as to how much goes overland and how much by sea. But there has been a close-off of access, free access, to Syria, and therefore morphine base labs no longer, according to our own reports, exist in Syria. They are more concentrated in Turkey itself, so that the material can move north.

Q How much has the consumption increased in the U.S., as you said earlier, over the years?

A I would refer you to Dr. Jaffe on that. I would just like to say that the international effort obviously is only one phase of the President's program, which is charged to Secretary Rogers. At the same time we must mount a strong effort, and the Administration is doing this,

on the demand side. We must also mount a very strenuous effort on local law enforcement, state and local.

Q What is being done with respect to the harsh narcotics laws in other countries, warning Americans here who travel abroad?

A Well, we are warning them to the best of our ability.

Q What is being done?

A We have Americans who are in prison in some of these countries, and the laws are quite strict in some areas. I think the message has gotten across in many areas.

Q You speak of sea transport and overland transport. And you don't mention air transport. Is that because the stuff is heavy? I should have thought that it would be ideal for air transport.

A Well, the air transport seems to be used in Southeast Asia to a great degree. But not particularly in Europe.

Q Why?

A Well, for one reason, they have what is called the TIR trucking system, whereby you can put goods in a truck, in even Iran, or in Turkey, and seal those goods, and they will have, by reason of international arrangement,

free transport. By that I mean no customs surveillance of the inside of the truck until the point of exit. And they have been using this particular means of transit. This doesn't mean that we are hampered necessarily, because our points of pressure then become the points of entry and the points of exit, and it should theoretically be easier for us, unless they are forging the TIR stamps, so to speak.

Q Mr. Gross, can you discuss for a moment the effort that has been made to concentrate on the laboratories -- for example, have you got a general identification of the location of laboratories?

A The only general location is the Marseille area for some laboratories. Now, that might be between five and ten laboratories which operate intermittently. By Marseille area, I mean that it can't be confined just to the city proper. We are out into the -- in our terminology -- the suburban area. It is very, very difficult. We have our own personnel in the field, and I can assure you that if a lead is there, it is going to be followed up. The French are working together with us in the field. There is utterly no reason to think that -- otherwise than if we do find any evidence that we will close a heroin laboratory. But it is not easy.

Q There have been reports that some of the laboratories are moving up north, to Antwerp and to some other countries. Have you got any indication about that?

A Every report, of course, is looked into very thoroughly, and we have as yet found no evidence of any other heroin laboratory.

Q Mr. Gross, at the rate you are going, how long do you think it will take to stamp out the drug traffic?

A Well, it is not a one-year project. I sometimes look askance at articles which say that the effort is faltering at one moment and then the next moment you will see an article which says we have suddenly solved everything. Obviously it is in the middle someplace. We are making definite progress. This has been, as I said originally, a year of major accomplishment beyond any question. But it cannot all be done in one year. And as I alluded to before, we must attack the demand side at the same time. This is very crucial -- to cutting down the supply. They are interacting. And for this reason, Dr. Jaffe is on the Working Group to the Cabinet Committee which I am on too, so that we can get the interplay of ideas.

Q Mr. Gross, I read somewhere recently that the Soviet Union claimed not to have a drug problem. Now, can

you tell us, is that true, and if it is true, why don't we adopt the system that they are using?

A Well, you can't just overlay one system into another area. The reason they don't have a drug problem, if they don't, may be due to many different things. Maybe there is no supply. The operators realize that in terms of the market and supply and demand that the high prices are in the United States. I often ask when I am in Europe why they don't have more use of heroin in Europe. Well, if the operator can make more money by transporting it over the Atlantic here, he is going to do that.

That's one phase of it -- the supply.

The other is what a given country can do. By the terms of our own society and the requirements and criteria for law enforcement, there is only so much that we can do. Japan has a very strong effort which has been largely successful. We are told that China does, too. But probably they have enforced it in a more direct way than we would be able to do in our system.

Q Mr. Gross, do you have any indications against what kind of organization or organizations you are fighting? I mean are there a lot of different organizations in this market, or could we imagine a kind of Dr. Blofel

type sitting in his Swiss chalet and directing a worldwide net of pushers and peddlers?

A Well, I think the BNDD has this typed. If I have the latest count, I believe it is twelve basic systems. It is very difficult -- obviously, it is not one man running this whole operation. It is so far-flung, and the potential profits are so vast, that many people try to get into the act.

There is one chart here which is, I suspect, a little out of date. But this indicates the kind of profits for those who are not familiar with it that can be made from the field to the street. Ten kilos, as I mentioned before, would make one kilo of opium. And that ten kilos, or one kilo of heroin, worth \$350 at the poppy farmer level, ultimately is worth \$225,000 on the street. But when I say it is out of date, I believe that because we are talking here six percent heroin, and I don't think that is true any longer. And I think the dosage is less. And probably the price per packet is higher. So that there is a large range in dollar value.

Q What sort of budget are you requesting, and how does it compare with your previous financial request from Congress?

A Well, I am not at liberty to give you the figures on the budget request yet. But the Cabinet Committee has, through Secretary Rogers' leadership, requested an additional amount. And that should be reflected in the next budget.

Q What are you spending now?

A In this last budget, I think you are talking a base amount for Turkey, plus relatively smaller amounts, because the programs, the action plans in other countries, are just beginning to be implemented.

Q How much is that?

A I can't give you the exact figure, because I would have to break it down bureau by bureau.

Q Thank you, Mr. Gross.

A Thank you.

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MR. BRAY: I have, in addition to what Mr. Gross has given you, speaking to our regulars here, very little to say today. I would be happy to "no comment" almost any question you care to put to me. But absent that, I suggest we adjourn, subject to your views.

Q We have got questions.

A You have got questions. All right, I have got no answers, but let's take your questions. Do you want to take a few minutes and let the cameras break down?

Q I think so.

Q Are we correct in figuring this is not for sound, this briefing you will give?

A That's right. Neither sound nor sight.

Q Charles, I think we can go ahead. The camera men will take longer than your briefing will probably take.

A I will take your questions.

Q Is there an agreement on when the next meeting will be held at the Paris talks?

A To my knowledge there is not as at this point. I believe the other side has proposed January 6. I do not believe our delegation has responded yet.

Q Can you tell us whether we plan to resume the talks sometime soon?

A Oh, I think the communique issued by the U.S. and GVN delegations this morning made it perfectly clear that we had no intention of breaking off the talks.

Q Well, there is a difference between not breaking them off, isn't there, and resuming.

A I would anticipate we will be meeting again in the relatively near future.

Q Charlie, I wonder if you have any sort of breakdown on the situation in Laos around the Plain of Jars.

A I don't believe, Mick, there has been any significant military action in North Laos since the offensive by the North Vietnamese that we discussed here late last week. Our impression is that both the Royal Lao Government and North Vietnamese Pathet Lao forces on the other hand are regrouping on and to the south and west of the Plain of Jars.

There was yesterday, as I think you know, an attack by a sizable North Vietnamese force on the City of Paksong in the Bolivans Plateau. I think the Royal Lao Government forces have evacuated the city and regrouped to the west of it.

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Q What is the name of that place?

A P-a-k-s-o-n-g.

Q An American C-123 was reported shot down over Northern Laos, shot down by Chinese antiaircraft batteries along the newly built road leading to Thailand. Do you have anything on that?

A I am completely unbriefed, Louie, I would have to check into it.

Q Charlie, as far as the State Department is concerned, what is the status or state of health of the 1968 understandings which brought an end to the bombing of North Vietnam?

A I won't take that subject any further than it was taken yesterday by the Secretary of Defense.

Q In other words, you would agree with the Secretary of Defense then that they are still alive and well?

A That is correct.

Q Charles, has there been any movement, preferably progress of course, toward negotiations in the Middle East, or on the Middle East problem shall we say?

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A None that I am aware of, Joe.

Q Do you have any comment on Mr. Riad's statement yesterday that he thinks war is inevitable in the Mid-East?

Q What was the question please?

Q Do you have any comment on Mr. Riad's statement yesterday to a group of Arab Foreign Ministers that he regards that war is inevitable in the Mid-East in the near future?

A No, I do not.

Q Do you have anything on the Ghazi?

A The Ghazi?

Q Yesterday you took a question on what Senator Stevenson said that the submarines the Americans had given for training purposes was illegally used during the war, and you took the question yesterday.

A I don't. To be perfectly frank with you, I had a briefing paper that I had a chance to look at only very quickly while I was consulting with Mr. Gross before we came out. It is not entirely clear to me. I will come back to it tomorrow.

Q Does the Department have anything on a couple of Panamanians who were released by the Cubans aboard one of the freighters which had been seized?

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A No. I have seen tickers to that effect this morning. I have no comment on them.

Q No confirmation either then?

A Yes, I think there is confirmation, but I have nothing to expatiate on with respect to it.

Q Do you have any comment on the speculation, apparently out of London, that the defector who defected back again was trying to discredit Mr. Lyalin who went over to the British in October? There is some suggestion that he was trying to make contact with him.

Q What was the question?

A As I understood the question, Marilyn, it was whether I had any comment on speculation to the effect that Chebotaryev, the man who redefected Sunday night, was attempting to discredit the defector in London, in early September I guess, by his actions. That is in the realm of the purest form of speculation. Certainly nothing available to us would indicate that that was the case.

Q Have you any word from Rawalpindi on the type of conversations that are going on between Mr. Bhutto and the Sheik?

A I don't believe so.

[Whereupon, the briefing was terminated at 1:57 p.m.]